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MERCY WHEAT CONTRACTS PAID THROUGH AAA OFFICES

Wheat producers who sold 1946-crop wheat for famine relief under the Department of Agriculture's "certificate" plan to defer selection of the market price date still will go to the county AAA office to arrange for settlement of their contracts. Because of the difficulty of computing applicable market prices since removal of OPA controls, the settlement on contracts for which a date past June 30, 1946 is selected will be made by regional Commodity Credit Corporation offices and checks in payment of the contracts will be mailed direct to the producer from CCC. However, producers will inform their county offices of the date selected for marketing, and the contract will be completed at the county office before being forwarded to CCC.

HEAVY LEGUME AND GRASS SEED HARVEST NEEDED

"We have to plan and prepare now for greater livestock production a few years from now," N. E. Dodd, Under Secretary of Agriculture, told a Nationwide radio audience in explaining the need for a heavy 1946 legume and grass seed harvest.

"Grass and legume seed harvested this summer can be seeded in 1947, will make hay and pasture in 1948, and meat and milk and butter in 1949," Dodd said. "Grasses and legumes not only furnish hay and pasture for our livestock, they also help furnish the soil fertility necessary for continuing heavy farm production."

Legume and grass seed supplies are very short, Dodd pointed out. Unless production of alfalfa seed, alsike seed, and red clover seed is increased this year, there won't be enough to go around next year. Congress has thought the grass and legume seed shortage serious enough to offer farmers a special incentive to harvest a big seed crop.

Special payments for harvesting grass and legume seed are available through the AAA program. In most States farmers can earn a payment of $3.50 an acre for harvesting grass and legume seed. There is also a payment of 7 cents a pound for selling alfalfa and alsike seed and 9 cents a pound for selling red clover seed into commercial channels in 1946.

FARM MACHINERY OUTPUT EXPECTED TO INCREASE

July production of farm machinery is expected to exceed the production peak set in January, the Civilian Production Administration reports. A recently established self-certification program providing priorities on steel for farm machinery became effective this month.

May farm machinery output increased to almost $58.5 million, a 20 percent gain over April, due largely to the settlement of the International Harvester Company strike. Production is still handicapped by continuation of labor-management disputes at the J. I. Case Company (in effect more than 6 months) and the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company (closed down since early May).

Production of wheel tractors gained sharply in May, reaching 20,934 units in May compared with 11,825 in April and 16,972 in May 1945. May output also showed a 49 percent increase in harvesting machinery, a 38 percent gain in machinery for preparing crops, and a 14 percent gain in cultivators and weeders.

SUGAR RATIONING REMAINS UNDER OPA

All phases of the sugar rationing program continue in effect, OPA Administrator Paul Porter has announced. Authority for sugar rationing comes from the Second War Powers Act, extended to March 31, 1947, by Congress. An Executive Order of June 30 specifically directed OPA to perform all functions relating to sugar rationing. All sugar users -- industrial, institutional, wholesalers, and retailers -- are advised to retain unused ration evidence and records.

USDA ASKS INDUSTRY TO HOLD MILK PRICES

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson has seconded the appeal of President Truman that all groups keep prices in line until Congress can take action leading to settlement of price control.

In a letter to the Chairman of the New York Milk Shed Dairy Committee, Secretary Anderson stated that, under the price policy announced previously by the Economic Stabilization Administrator, the continuing absence of price control and subsidies would justify an increase in milk prices. He expressed hope, however, that any further Congressional action would include provisions designed to permit orderly liquidation of subsidies without shock to producers and consumers.

FARM NEWS SHORTS

More than half of all the Nation's children under 15 years of age, and a higher proportion of persons over 65, live in rural areas.

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Compared with the over-all rejection rate of 43 percent in Selective Service physical examinations, the rate for farmers as an occupational group was 53.4 percent.

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A survey of low-income farm families revealed an average of more than three significant physical defects for each man, woman and child examined. Only four out of every hundred had no defects.

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REA loan approvals from 1946 fiscal year funds to borrowers in 45 States and Alaska totaled more than $290 million, the largest amount ever allocated by REA in one year.

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